

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the arms trade

The European Parliament,

- A - considering the special role of Europe as regards peace, as defined during the European Summit in The Hague in 1969 and the Conference of Heads of State and Government in Paris 1972,
 - B - considering the Luxembourg Joint Declaration of 5 April 1977 in which the European Institutions committed themselves to respecting the fundamental human rights and freedoms,
 - C - noting however that arms trade is occupying an increasingly large place in the Member States' external trade, that supervision of the arms trade has repeatedly been put forward by the General Assembly of the UN In 1965, 1968, 1970 and 1972 and recalling the innumerable opinions of representative bodies such as the World Council of Churches, the Synod of Bishops, the World Congress of major religions, the Council of the French episcopacy, Amnesty International, Pax Christi and so many others,
 - D - noting that measures have repeatedly been proposed in UNCTAD to counter the present-day arms trade, the influence of which is considered disastrous,
 - E - noting that the arms trade also has economic disadvantages for the countries of the Third World which spend their scarce resources on the acquisition of weapons,
 - F - noting that the various Member States are failing to reduce their arms deliveries and that, moreover, there are great differences from one Member State to another in legislation on trade in, and the export of, military weapons,
 - G - noting the numerous resolutions of the European Parliament against violations of human rights which however fail to condemn the complicity of Member States which supply arms to repressive regimes,
1. Requests the Commission and the Council immediately to draw up a directive subjecting trade in war weapons and materials with non-Member States to strict rules with a checkable export licence system under which an immediate embargo can be imposed for any instance of export and sale to countries whose regimes fail to respect human rights;
 2. Asks Council to give extensive consideration at its next meeting to the problem of trade in weapons and war materials and to examine all the measures which could be taken to ensure that the legal, political and moral values underlying the European Community shape the basic principles of the necessary common guideline for trade in weapons, munition and war materials with non-Member States;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.